

Claims:

1. A composition for the treatment or prophylaxis of a bee disease, the composition comprising:

(a) an inoculum containing one or more microorganisms that are non-pathogenic to bees for producing a microflora having therapeutic or prophylactic efficacy against the bee disease; and

(b) an apicultural delivery vehicle for delivering the inoculum to a component of a bee hive, or to at least a portion of a bee colony that is susceptible to or infected with the bee disease, whereby a remedial and/or protective microflora is established within the hive or the bee colony.

2. The composition of claim 1, wherein the apicultural delivery vehicle is selected from:

- (a) a patty;
- (b) a syrup;
- (c) a drench;
- (d) a dusting; and
- (e) a paste.

3. The composition of claim 2, wherein the apicultural delivery vehicle is a patty selected from:

- (a) a sugar patty; and
- (b) a sugar and fat extender patty.

4. The composition of claim 2, wherein the apicultural delivery vehicle is a syrup comprising sugar and water.

5. The composition of claim 2, wherein the apicultural delivery vehicle is a dusting comprising sugar.

6. The composition of claim 2, wherein the apicultural delivery vehicle is a paste comprising a pollen substitute.
7. The composition of claim 1, wherein the inoculum comprises one or more microorganism(s) that produce one or more antibiotic(s) active against one or more bee pathogen(s).
8. The composition of claim 7, wherein the antibiotic(s) are active against at least one of *Melissococcus pluton* and *Paenibacillus larvae* subsp. *larvae*.
9. The composition of claim 7, wherein the antibiotic(s) are bacteriolytic.
10. The composition of claim 7, wherein the antibiotic(s) are the anti-*Melissococcus pluton* and/or the anti-*Paenibacillus larvae* subsp. *larvae* antibiotic(s) found in *Paenibacillus larvae* subsp. *pulvifaciens*.
11. The composition of claim 7, wherein the antibiotic(s) are active against one or more of *Escherichia coli*, *Salmonella typhimurium*, *Pseudomonas putida*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Micrococcus luteus*, *Bacillus cereus*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Paenibacillus alvei*, *Paenibacillus larvae* subsp. *larvae*, *Paenibacillus apiarius*, *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Yersinia enterocolitica*, and *Melissococcus pluton*.
12. The composition of claim 7, wherein the microorganism(s) comprise bacteria.
13. The composition of claim 12, wherein the bacteria comprise bacterial endospores.
14. The composition of claim 13, wherein the bacterial endospores are washed and/or concentrated.
15. The composition of claim 12, wherein the bacteria comprise a *Paenibacillus* spp.

16. The composition of claim 15, wherein the *Paenibacillus* spp. is:
- (a) a subspecies of *Paenibacillus larvae*; or
  - (b) *P. alvei*.